

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 13-14 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-17 are present for examination.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for various informalities. Those mentioned by the Examiner and more are corrected in the amendments to the specification above.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Ramasubramani et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over Ramasubramani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,516,316 ("Rama"). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify interrelationships between some of the elements.

First, Claim 1 recites a different way of issuing certificates. In Claim 1, the service certificate received from the certificate authority includes the subscription identifier that has been assigned to the user terminal at the ISP. In contrast, Rama has a group of "free certificates" that it obtains from a certificate authority (Col. 7, lines 45-48). Rama then attaches these certificates to particular users when a user needs a certificate (Col. 7, lines 53-56). These certificates do not have subscription identifiers, although the proxy server may keep a table relating certificates to user accounts. The certificate with an identifier has not been signed by the certificate authority. In Rama, the certificates do

not relate to subscriptions but to access to particular websites as explained at Col. 9, line 55, to Col. 10, line 14 in the context of www.financial.com.

Second, the nature of the certificate is different in that Claim 1 refers to an ISP, while Rama uses a proxy server.

Claim 1 has also been amended to include some of the limitations of Claim 2. As to Claim 2, the Examiner has cited aspects of paragraph 14 of Rama as anticipating the claim.

In Rama, as pointed out by the Examiner at Col. 14, lines 23-46, a thin client is able to "establish a secure and authenticated communication session with a web site identified by a URL." (lines 29-30) A session request, including the thin client's device ID, is sent to a "certificate manager module" 324 of a proxy server 114. The proxy server checks the account and if it checks out, then the proxy server sends the thin client's certificate to the web site identified by the thin client in the session request, using HTTPS. (lines 38-40) After this, there is a separate authentication between the thin client and the identified web site. (lines 40-41) The authentication between the thin client and the identified web site results in the session key for the "secure and authenticated communication session."

In Claim 1 as amended, among other limitations, the ISP provides a session certificate to the user terminal. In Rama, the certificate is provided to the identified web site ((lines 38-40). Also in Claim 1, the session certificate is to be used by the user terminal, not by the ISP or a proxy server.

In addition, the session certificate of Claim 1 is used to access a wireless access network. In Rama, the certificate is to authenticate to a web site.

Claim 6 has been clarified to recite that there are two different certificates and two different CRLs. One CRL is at the access point and the other is at the ISP. In Rama, the certificates would all appear to be of the same type, all collected from the same certificate authority, and all administered by the same proxy server.

Claim 10 also relates to two different types of certificates and two different types of authentication and is believed to be allowable on grounds similar to that of Claim 6.

Claim 13 is believed to be allowable on the same grounds as Claim 1.

The remaining claims, not discussed above, are dependent.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Ramasubramani and PPP

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rama and RFC 1661: The Point-to-Point Protocol ("PPP"). PPP appears to be from the Point-to-Point Protocol Working Group of the Network Working Group of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Standard 51, Request for Comments 1661 dated July 1994. The rejection relies on the rejection based on Rama and is traversed on the grounds provided above.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

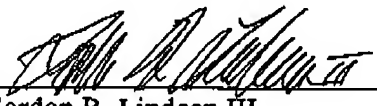
Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.
Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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